

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



A CALL TO GLOBAL JUSTICE

 **Isaiah 58:6-8; Micah 6:8**

Over the next few weeks we will be thinking about global justice. We will learn about how The Salvation Army, all over the world, is walking and working alongside people to overcome poverty and injustice.

In the UK, The Salvation Army's International Development team supports projects which fall into six different areas: anti-trafficking, clean water, emergency response, food security, gender justice and income generation. Over the few weeks we will look at each area in more detail.

Each child will need:

- Paint and a sheet of white card plus a towel and other clean-up resources – see Pray It section

Start It

Play a game of 'Fair/Unfair' to see what people think is fair, and what is not.

Read each statement and ask the group to stand up if they think it is fair and sit down if they do not think it is fair (or choose your own actions as a group). You could have a short discussion after each choice to ask why people chose as they did – especially if there are some controversial choices!

- You're not allowed to go to school because you need to work.
- You are asked to clear the table after dinner.
- You can't have a toilet break all day.
- You are not allowed to eat burger and chips for every meal.
- You have to walk five miles to collect water, and then carry it home.
- You are asked to pick vegetables from the garden for dinner.
- You're not allowed to watch television all day long.
- You can't drink water all day, even when it's a boiling hot day.
- You have to share toys with others who also want to play with them.
- You have to do all the cleaning in the house, cook the meals, and take care of your siblings on your own.

Ask:

- Do you always act fairly?
- How do you feel when you see or experience something unfair?
- How can we make our world a fairer place?

Tell It

The Salvation Army has a long history of caring and acting on issues of justice. We're going to see what this means to some members of The Salvation Army.

Video

Watch the video *International Development Week 2020 Part 2 The Salvation Army's Fight for Justice* (2 mins 10 secs) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qFITIY_kXg

Ask: What does The Salvation Army's fight for justice mean to you?

Invite children to share their own responses to this question.

- **Say:** As some people mention in the video, there is a biblical foundation for The Salvation Army's work tackling poverty and injustice.
- **Say:** The Bible is full of verses which speak of God's heart for justice, his desire to see all people experiencing life in all its fullness, and how he wants us to be part of bringing this about. Two passages of Scripture which are especially important to the International Development team are Isaiah 58:6-8 and Micah 6:8. The team think about these verses a lot as they work with people around the world on a variety of projects.

Read Isaiah 58:6-8 (*ICB*)

**I will tell you the kind of special day I want.
I want you to free the people you have put in prison unfairly.
Undo their chains.
Free those to whom you are unfair.
Free them from their hard labour.
I want you to share your food with hungry people.
I want you to bring poor, homeless people into your own homes.
When you see someone who has no clothes, give him yours.
Don't refuse to help your own relatives.
If you do these things, your light will shine like the dawn.
Then your wounds will quickly heal.
Your God will walk before you,
and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind.**

Discuss

- What would happen (what would the world look like) if we all did the things God asks in these verses?
- What stops us from doing the things mentioned in Isaiah 58:6-8?

Sing It

This is a gentle, repetitive song which helps children remember Micah 6:8. Depending on the age of those in your group, you may want to explain some of the terms used in the song (like 'mortal' and 'require of you'). You may also like to make up some actions for the three parts of the verse/song. Invite the children to come up with the actions together (act justly, love mercy, walk humbly).

'Micah 6:8' by Slugs and Bugs (3 mins 39 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH9VbRY_1n4

Ask: Can you remember what Micah 6:8 says?

Read aloud Micah 6:8 (*NIV*), shown below, pausing at the words in bold for the children to fill in the gaps:

**'He has shown you, O mortal, what is [good].
And what does the [Lord] require of you?
To [act justly] and to [love mercy]
and to [walk humbly] with your God.'**

- **Say:** In other words, God wants us to do what is right to other people, love being kind to others and live humbly (*ICB*).

Discuss

- Thinking about these verses, what are some practical ways we can 'do what is right to other people'?
- How do you feel when you are kind to others? It says in Micah that we are called to love being kind to others. How easy do you find this?
- How can we love others, especially those we find it hard to be kind to? Can we pray for help?
- What does it mean to 'walk' or 'live humbly'?
- 💡 **Say:** Both Bible passages (Isaiah 58:6-8 and Micah 6:8), as well as the way Jesus lived, are a call to action. Jesus not only saw the forgotten people in society, but also sought them out and showed them love. It is easy to intend to follow the call on our lives, like it says in Micah, but we need courage and compassion to truly live it out.

Action It

- 💡 **Say:** The Salvation Army International Development UK has a vision, a goal that it is working towards, and that is: a world without poverty and injustice.
- 💡 **Say:** Sometimes, when we look at some of the bad things that happen in the world, that vision may seem impossible to achieve. As Christians we are working to bring God's Kingdom here to Earth, so that all of creation might know and have a relationship with God.
- 💡 **Say:** There are lots of things we can do to make our world a kinder, fairer place.

Discuss with the group some ideas (you could use the Whiteboard function to write these up on screen as people make suggestions).

Some ideas include:

- Buying toys and clothes from a charity shop (this is a way of supporting a charity as well as not wasting resources by buying new, disposable products)
- Choosing Fairtrade food and drink (as well as clothes, toys, footballs...)
- Fundraise for or raise awareness about The Salvation Army's work around the world. Visit the website or get involved in our current Helping-Hand Appeal: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/international-development/campaigns/helping-hand-appeal>
- Write to your MP – contact them about issues that are close to your heart. These could be global or local concerns. Ask them to tell you what they are going to do about it!
- Start or sign a petition. See <https://petition.parliament.uk/> (scroll to 'Start a petition') or <https://www.change.org/>

Pray It

Poster

Create a Micah 6:8 poster to display at home to serve as a daily reminder of God's command to live a life for justice. In some translations of the Bible (and in the song we sang earlier), the three instructions in Micah 6:8 are: act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.

At the top of the piece of card, using paint, make a handprint. Then, below it, paint a heart shape and then below that make a footprint.

Once the paint is dry, write the words of Micah 6:8 on top or alongside.

Hands: act justly

Heart: love mercy

Feet: walk humbly with God



As you're doing each part, pray for God's help in living in this way.

Finish by praying for the group.

Lord God,

We pray for the conviction to do what is right when the world around us seems to choose the easy option. We pray for the courage to challenge injustice even when it means personal sacrifice, and for the compassion to love everybody.

AMEN

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to share with your group, for them to do at home.

FOR ME

TOGETHER



Investigate

Spend time this week reading news stories from around the world. Are there any stories or issues that particularly capture your attention? Focus on one of these issues and dedicate time to learning more about it and researching ways that you can help. Perhaps there is a petition you could sign, a video you could share to raise awareness, or perhaps you could contact your MP.



Pray

At the beginning of the week get together to make a list of seven different things that are unjust or unfair in our world today. Each day before lunch or dinner (or whenever you are all together), pray for one of the issues on your list. You could hold hands or link arms as you pray together.